

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A valve stem seal assembly with changeable cap, comprising:
a retainer having an outer surface with a first gripping member; and
a cap made of a flexible material and having at least one tab with a second gripping member for engaging the first gripping member on the retainer to snap-fit the cap on the retainer,
wherein the cap is capable of being removed from said retainer by bending the at least one tab such that the second gripping member on said cap no longer engages the first gripping member on said retainer.
2. The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 1, further comprising a sealing element bonded to the cap.
3. The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said retainer is made of a flexible material.
4. The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 3, wherein said retainer is made of a plastic material.
5. The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said cap is made of a plastic material.
6. The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said sealing element is made of an elastomeric material.
7. A valve stem seal assembly, comprising:
a retainer having an outer surface with a first gripping member; and
a cap made of a flexible material and having at least one tab with a second gripping member for engaging the first gripping member on the retainer,

wherein said cap is capable of being snap-fit onto said retainer by moving said retainer relative to said cap such that the first gripping member engages said first gripping member, and

wherein said cap is capable of being removed from said retainer by bending the at least one tab such that the second gripping member on said cap no longer engages the first gripping member on said retainer.

8. The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 7, further comprising a sealing element bonded to the cap.

9. The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 7, wherein said retainer is made of a flexible material.

10. The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 9, wherein said retainer is made of a plastic material.

11. The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 7, wherein said cap is made of a plastic material.

12. The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 7, wherein said sealing element is made of an elastomeric material.